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26 July 1976

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MEMORANDUM FOR: D/DCI/NI
FROM: [redacted]
SUBJECT: National Intelligence Officer for China
Dr. James Schlesinger's Visit to China

1. On 23 July Dr. James Schlesinger phoned me and told me he had received his suggested itinerary from PRCLO here in Washington. It ran as follows: Peking, Hu Ho Hao Te (Inner Mongolia), Urumchi, I-ning (in Sinkiang near the Soviet border), Cheng Tu Szechwan, Lhasa Tibet, Kuei Lin, Nanchang and Shanghai. He will leave on 3 September and be in Peking on 5 September. He had also asked for Shuang Cheng-tse (missile launch center), Harbin and Lanchou (gaseous diffusion plant). The Chinese made no mention of these places.

2. I told Dr. Schlesinger there were two extraordinary aspects to this situation. First, the Chinese had told him in Washington where he could go in China instead of telling him he would find out in Peking. And two, they had given him an itinerary which would be the envy of any traveller to China. Foreign travellers have visited these locations but not all in one trip.

3. Dr. Schlesinger asked for "hints" for things to look for while he was in China and I said I would help him out. He also asked me about taking a Chinese linguist and suggested one Chuck Benoit formerly of RAND. I said I had never met Chuck but thought that this idea was, in principle, a good one. Dr. Schlesinger is taking along Bill Whitson whom I recommended to him as a Sinologist familiar with Chinese military matters.

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